

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **HINCHEY SOLICITS INPUT ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that he has circulated a survey to learn more about the emergency preparedness needs of local communities. The survey has been mailed to municipal governments, health care providers, and emergency responders throughout New York's 26th Congressional District.

"The federal government needs to provide municipalities with the tools they need to prepare for and respond to catastrophe," said Hinchey. "First we need to know exactly what those needs are and how local officials prioritize them."

After the September 11 attacks, Hinchey held meetings in the Hudson Valley and the Southern Tier to discuss the preparation and response priorities of local municipalities. He is an original cosponsor of H.R. 3161, the Municipal Preparation and Strategic Response Act, which was introduced on October 23. Last month President Bush announced that he would include funding for initiatives like those called for in the legislation. But Hinchey and fifty of his colleagues found that the president's plan was inadequate in some respects. They wrote to the president requesting that improvements be made.

The nine-question survey mailed out by Hinchey asks questions about communities' current state of readiness and financial needs.